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منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

TL 5026

PUBLIC **AI Index: ASA 21/31/99**

UA 80/99 **Fear for safety** **19 April 1999**

EAST TIMOR

Amnesty International fears for the safety of several people in military or paramilitary custody since violent attacks by paramilitary units on supporters of independence in Dili, capital of East Timor, on 17 April 1999. Many others are at risk of arrest.

Antonio Barbosa, a civil servant and pro-independence activist, is believed to have been arrested at his home on 17 April. His whereabouts are not known. On 19 April Jeremy De Costa, from Los Palos, was reportedly arrested in Becora, Dili, and taken to a Sub-district Military Command (Koramil). An eyewitness reported that he was beaten as he was being arrested. It is not clear if he was arrested by paramilitaries or members of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI).

Eighteen men were arrested in Viqueque on 17 April by a joint paramilitary and military team, and are now reportedly detained at the District Military Command (Kodim) in Viqueque. They are Vitorino de Carvalho, 44, Bonifaso Soares, 25, Jose Soares, 22, Tomas Ricardo, 22, Alcino Soares Pinto, 20, Acasio Soares Pires, 20, Marcos Soares, 16, Paulino Soares, 30, Mau Pinto, 20, Luis Soares, 20, Antonio Sarmento, 55, Rogerio Soares, 29, Jose Soares, 30, Gilberto Pires,40, Silvino Soares,34, Mateus Soares, 18, Manuel Pires, 34 and Jacob Pires, 30.

There are also fears for the safety of people held in "protective" police custody since a paramilitary raid on a house in Dili. At least 12 and possibly many more people were killed during the raid on the house of Manuel Carrascalao, leader of *Gerakan Rekonsiliasi dan Persatuan Rakyat Timor Timor* (GRPRTT), the Movement for Reconciliation and Unity of the East Timorese People. Among those killed were his son, Manelito Carrascalao, aged 17, and Marito Caeiro. The bodies of the 12 known victims were buried today by the military and the police. Some 175 people were seeking refuge in the house at the time of the attack. Half an hour before the attack, Manuel Carrascalao had visited the East Timor Military Commander to ask for protection. His demand was ignored. The house has been sealed off by the military authorities and remains closed to human rights monitors and journalists.

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of those who survived the attack. Police authorities claim that 46 people from the house are among 96 people in protective police custody. The whereabouts of others in the house at the time of the attack remain unknown.

After the attack, Manuel Carrascalao and his daughter, Christine Carrascalao, sought refuge in the house of Dili's Bishop Belo. On 18 April, they left the house and are now in protective custody at the Regional Police Headquarters (Polda) in Dili. They were joined by a pro-independence leader from the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT), Leandru Issac, whose house was destroyed by paramilitaries on 17 April. The police are believed to have agreed that the three are being held in "protective" custody and are not under arrest.

Other pro-independence figures are known to be at risk of arrest, in particular leaders of the CNRT, including David Ximenes and Vasco de Gama.

Human rights organizations have also been threatened, and have ceased operating from their offices. Several human rights monitors are at risk of arrest, including Aniceto Guterres and Ze Luis, the director and deputy

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

Tel: (44)(171) 413 5500 Fax: 956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 E-mail: uateam@amnesty.org

director of *Yayasan Hak*, Human Rights Foundation. On 19 April, the *Yayasan Hak* office - previously vacated by the organization's staff - was guarded all day by military and members of the militias. There are also fears for Alfredo, who works with the Justice and Peace Commission in Aileu District.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The situation in Dili, capital of East Timor, has deteriorated rapidly since 16 April with the arrival of over 1,000 members of paramilitary units in the town. On 13 April the paramilitaries issued public threats that from 17 April they would seek out supporters of independence. ABRI knew about the threats but took no action to prevent paramilitary violence or protect those at risk. On 17 April, after holding a rally in front of the East Timorese Governor's office, paramilitaries boarded some 36 trucks and drove in a convoy around Dili. They then began attacking the offices and houses of known pro-independence groups and figures, including the office of the CNRT. Most of the houses and offices they targeted were empty, as most pro-independence leaders had already gone into hiding. ABRI and police, present on the streets of Dili, took no action to prevent the attacks.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:
- urging the authorities to prevent the arrest of pro-independence leaders and human rights monitors by either paramilitary or military units;
- urging the authorities to ensure that those people who have been taken into custody by military or paramilitary units are given access to legal counsel, medical assistance and their families, and are not tortured or ill-treated;
- urging that those held for their peaceful activities are released unless they are immediately charged with a recognisably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to disarm and disband all paramilitary units;
- urging the authorities to take all measures to ensure that those in protective police custody are protected from attacks by paramilitary and military units, are not arrested and are allowed access to legal counsel, humanitarian assistance and their families;
- urging the authorities to allow a full and impartial investigation into the deaths in Dili since 17 April.

APPEALS TO:

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY
Gen. Wiranto
Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.13-14
Jakarta 10110
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 381 4535/ 384 5178

COPIES TO:

PRESIDENT
President Jusuf Habibie
Presiden RI
Istana Negara
Jl. Veteran
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia
Fax: +62 21 3281693904541/+ 62 21 526 8726 Fax: +62 21 380 5511/+62 21 345 7782/ (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 May 1999.